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ALSO INSIDE

"STANDING ROOM ONLY"

FOOTBALL REWIND

QUINN CORNOG

SAM BENNETT

AGGIE PARK

AND MORE...

SUB-ZERO

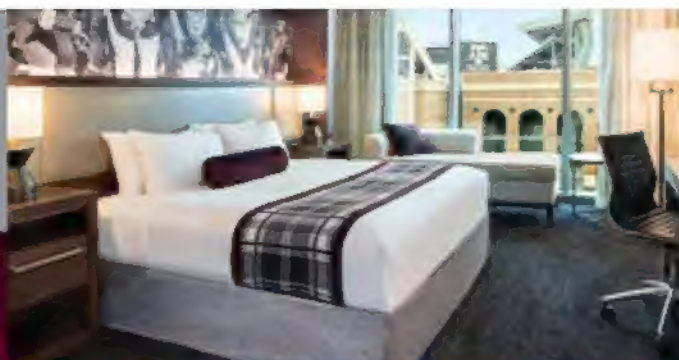
AINIAS SMITH SHOWS HEART OF A CHAMPION
IN INJURY SHORTENED SEASON



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ON THE COVER: Ainius Smith, a.k.a. Sub Zero, breaks away for a 63 yard touchdown vs. Sam Houston St. Photo by Rob Havens '88

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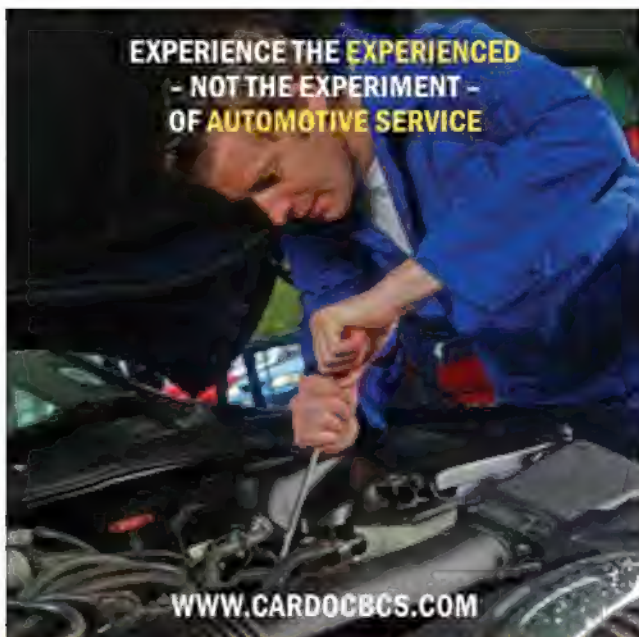
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Howdy Ags!

The fall is upon us and Aggie sports are in full swing. In this issue, we look back at the historic run that Sam Bennett made in the US Amateur Tournament, as the talented Aggie men's golfer became the #1 amateur in the country. I also got to be one of the privileged Aggies welcomed at the premiere of "Standing Room Only - The Legend of the 12th Man" movie that took place in Rudder Auditorium last month. Check out my review of the documentary in this issue. It was great to sit down with Aggie Soccer player, Quinn Cornog, and find out about her path to Texas A&M. Speaking of the soccer team, it looks like Coach G has got this year's team firing on all cylinders as they enter conference play. After a tough start to the season, Coach Bird has gotten our volleyball team on a nice winning streak too. On the gridiron, the Aggies took care of Sam Houston State and then stumbled against Appalachian State the following weekend. Our team is stacked with a lot of young talent and I'm confident that Jimbo Fisher will coach 'em up to have a great season. For those fortunate enough to come back to College Station this fall to take in a game, be sure and check out the new Aggie Park. I was able to cruise around and take some pictures before it officially opened and you can see those shots in this issue. Finally, on a personal note, this has been an amazing year for me. My middle son Tyler '20 and his wife Macailey had a baby boy in January and he has already been to his first Aggie baseball game. Jaxson picked a good one to start with as he helped the Aggies beat TU in the College World Series. My oldest son Dan '17 and his wife Meaghan blessed us with a granddaughter named Hannah, in April. As you can see from her picture below, she already looks amazing in maroon and white. Both grandma and grandpa are very proud of our two grandbabies and they love to hear me sing the Spirit of Aggieland as I rock them to sleep.

Gig'em Ags!

Rob '88



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Aggieland Illustrated is an independently owned, Aggie owned and operated publication and in no way reflects the views or opinions of Texas A&M University.

Aggieland Illustrated (ISSN 1932-9105) is published six times a year in the United States by Aggieland Illustrated, PO Box 6841, Bryan, TX 77805-6841. Reproduction or use of editorial or graphics content in any manner without permission is prohibited. Photographs and manuscripts for publication are welcome but will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Address all subscription inquiries and change of address requests to Aggieland Illustrated, PO Box 6841, Bryan, TX 77805-6841. Allow up to eight weeks for response.

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Volume 17, Number 2

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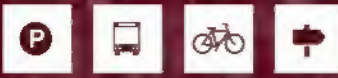


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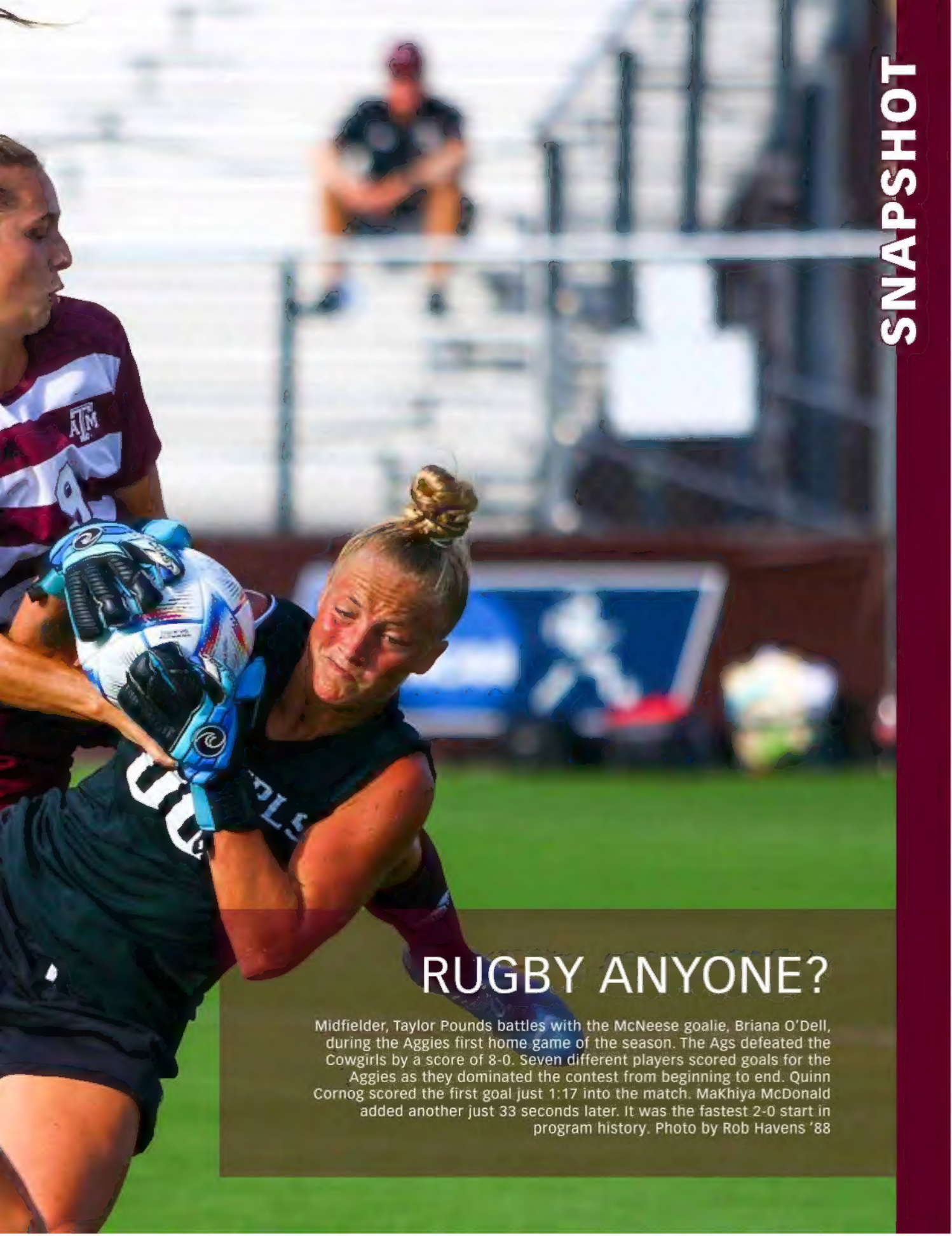




OPENING WIN

Redshirt, Junior, Madison Bowser dinks the ball over the outstretched hands of the Hawaiian blockers during the Texas A&M Invitational. The Ags came back from an opening set loss to win the match in five sets. There are a lot of fresh faces on this year's team as the Aggies welcome five freshmen and five transfers to the program. Photo by Rob Havens '88





RUGBY ANYONE?

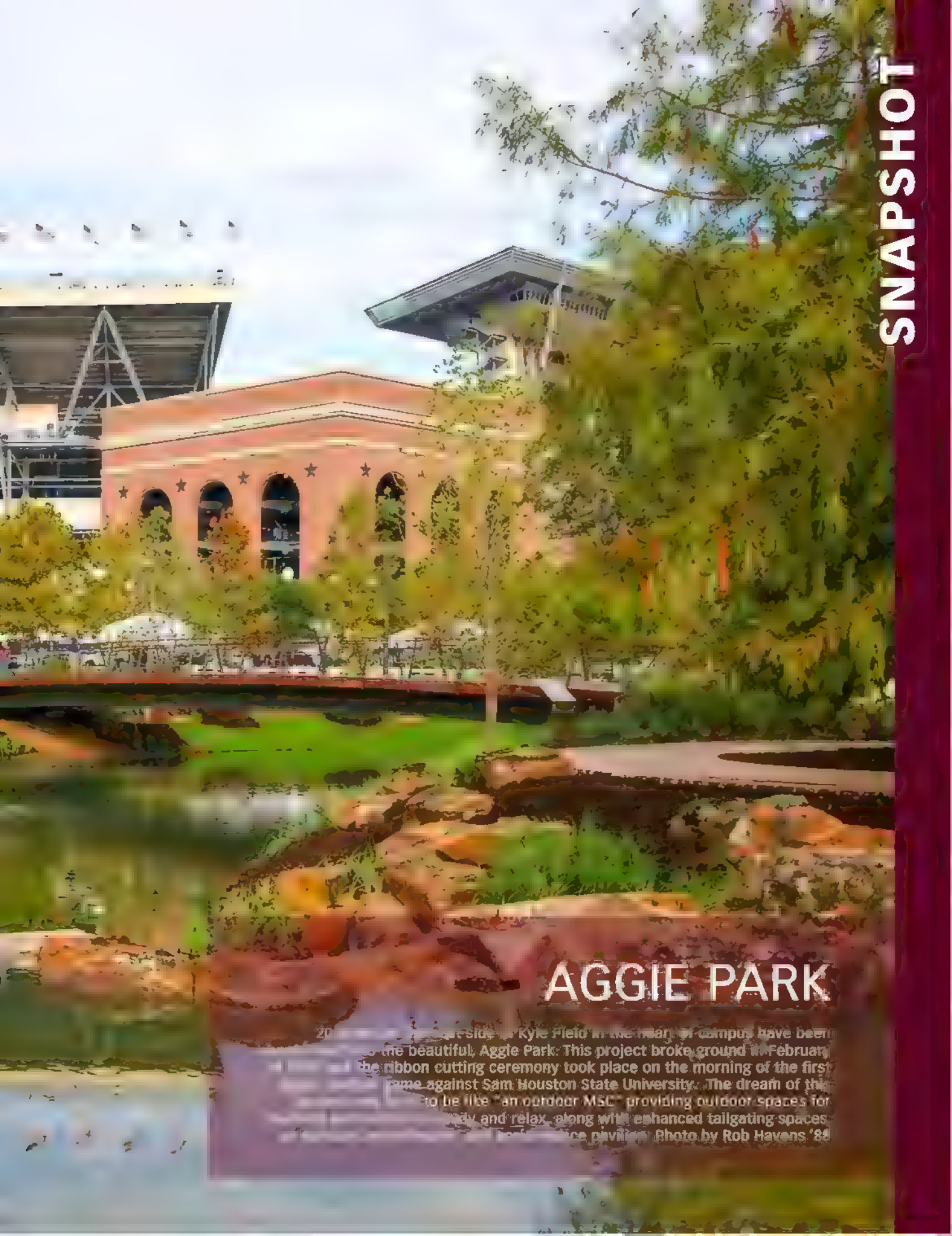
Midfielder, Taylor Pounds battles with the McNeese goalie, Briana O'Dell, during the Aggies first home game of the season. The Ags defeated the Cowgirls by a score of 8-0. Seven different players scored goals for the Aggies as they dominated the contest from beginning to end. Quinn Cornog scored the first goal just 1:17 into the match. MaKhiya McDonald added another just 33 seconds later. It was the fastest 2-0 start in program history. Photo by Rob Havens '88



SHUT OUT

Aggie defense





AGGIE PARK

20 years ago, the area next to Kyle Field in the heart of campus have been transformed into the beautiful, Aggie Park. This project broke ground in February 2000 and the ribbon cutting ceremony took place on the morning of the first home game against Sam Houston State University. The dream of this project was to be like "an outdoor MSC" providing outdoor spaces for students to study and relax, along with enhanced tailgating spaces, a large outdoor pavilion and performance pavilion. Photo by Rob Havens '88



MIA
PANTE



KAROLINA
SAMPLE



TANHILL



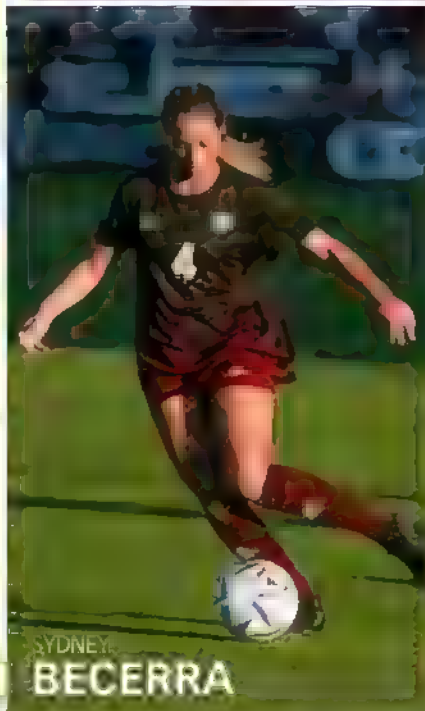
PLAYERS

SOCCER

The Aggies are undefeated through the first six games of the season, only allowing two goals. According to Coach G, the team wasn't happy about how last year went and are fired up to show the nation what Aggie Soccer is all about. The biggest difference from last year's team is that we have a healthy front line. The team posted an eight-goal game against McNeese and a six-goal game in a victory over Sam Houston State. Eleven different players have already scored goals in the first six matches.



CARISSA
BOECKMANN



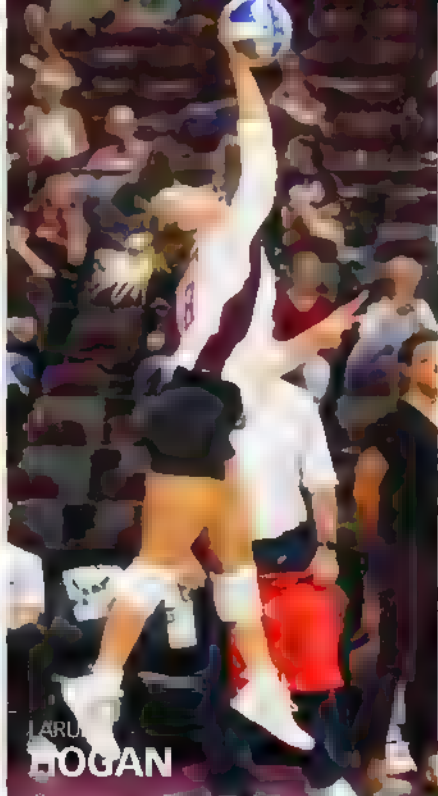
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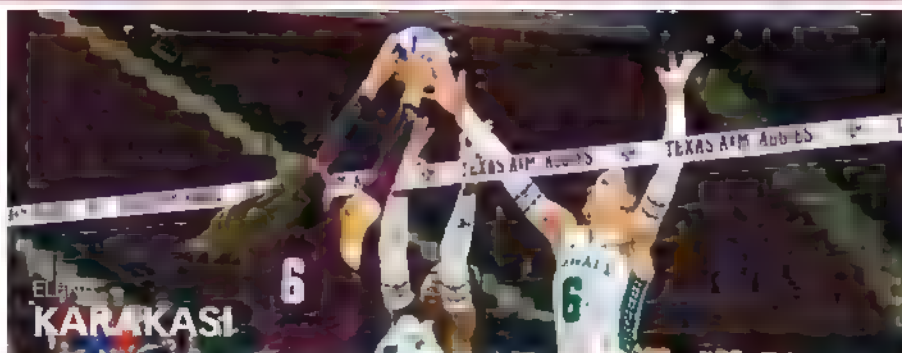
LOGAN
LEDNICKI



COACH
BIRD

VOLLEYBALL

After a slow start to the season against some ranked teams, the Aggies have put together a four-game winning streak. Three players had double-digit kills in a three-set sweep victory against Sam Houston State. Freshman Logan Lednicki led the team with 18, while Notre Dame graduate transfer Caroline Meuth had 13 of her own. Redshirt, junior, Madison Bowser had a career-high ten kills as well. Texas A&M begins SEC play September 21st at Ole Miss.



ELANA
KARAKASI



LOGAN
LEDNICKI

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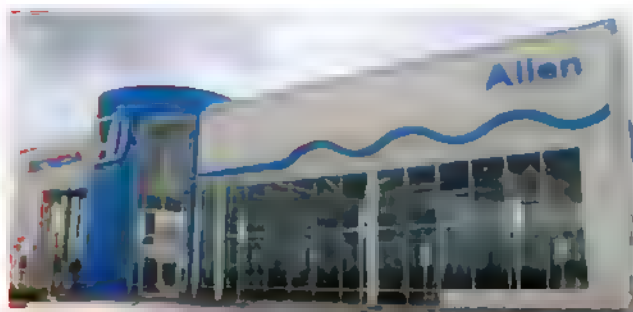


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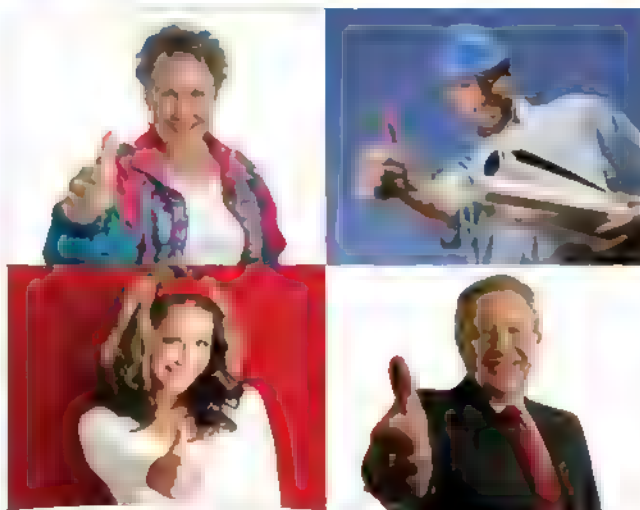


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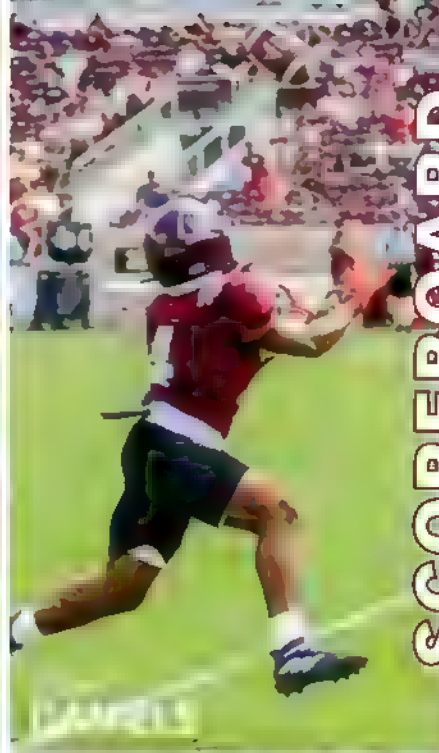
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FOOTBALL FALL CAMP

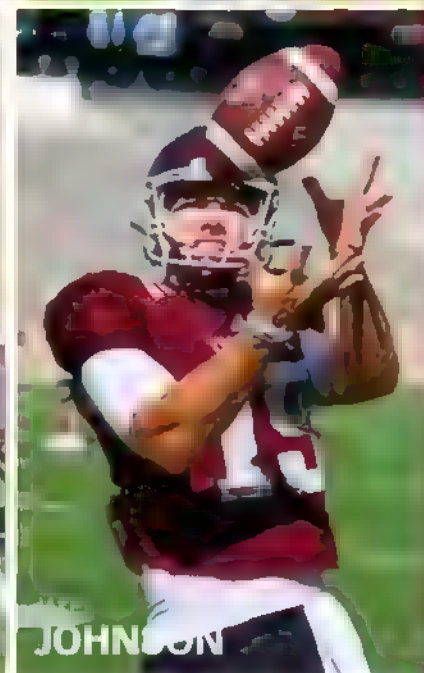
The biggest story coming out of fall camp was the competition at quarterback. Haynes King, Max Johnson, and Conner Weigman all gave immense effort and Coach Fisher said they all had a great camp. Jimbo officially announced that King had won the job just days before the first game. For the most part, the Aggies enter the season with a very healthy team. Incoming freshmen have gotten up to speed quickly and we expect to see a lot of young players get early playing time. The defense is loaded with talent and depth. The Aggies have a lot of weapons in the receiving corps and this could be the most talented group Jimbo has had since he got here. Expectations are high and this team is ready to compete for a championship.



COACH
FISHER



GILBERT



JOHNSON

A&M

2022 FOOTBALL REWIND

GAME 1



TEXAS A&M 31 - SAM HOUSTON 0

The Aggies opened the 2022 season with a shutout victory over Sam Houston State University. The six-hour plus contest started with close to 100,000 fans but after several lightning strikes in the area and a downpour of rain that forced a near three-hour rain delay, the game ended with just a few thousand fans left in the stands. Jimbo named Haynes King the starter just a few days before the game, and after a slow start, the talented red shirt sophomore showed off his long ball skills with a 66-yard touchdown pass to Yulkerth Brown and a pair of long touchdowns (63 and 43) to Akin Smith. King completed 20 of 31 passes for a career high 364 yards. It was also a career high day for Smith, who caught six passes for 164 yards. On defense, the Ags held the Bearcats to only 107 yards on the ground and just 91 yards in the air. Freshman Jardin Gilbert stopped Sam Houston on their only real scoring opportunity when he intercepted a pass on the Aggie eight yard line and returned it for 13 yards. Texas A&M scored right before the half when King found Smith for a 63 yard touchdown. After the long rain delay, the Aggies took the ball on their own 29-yard line and finally got things in motion with the running game, going all the way down the field in 12 plays, eating up six minutes on the clock, and finishing off the drive with a one-yard touchdown run by Devon Achane. In the fourth quarter, King would find Smith again for a 43 yard score giving the Aggies a 31-0 victory.



GAME 2

A

APPALACHIAN STATE 17 - TEXAS A&M 14

In our football preview issue, we explained that the Mountaineers were a pesky and talented team with lots of experience that you could not take lightly. App State showed up on September 10th and proved they were not here to collect a check, they were here to win, and that's exactly what they did. They held onto the ball for 41:29 and never gave the Aggie offense a chance to get going. Jimbo's offense averaged 4.9 yards per play, but only got to run 38 plays. Haynes King completed 13 of 20 passes for only 97 yards. Devon Achane scored the Aggies one and only offensive touchdown on a 26-yard run in the second quarter. After falling behind 14-7 in the third quarter, Achane tied up the game again with a 95-yard kickoff return touchdown, which was the second of his career. The dagger came on the Mountaineers final scoring drive when they ate up over nine minutes of the clock and scored the go-ahead field goal. The Aggies responded by moving the ball up the field for a game-tying field goal, but Caden Davis shanked the 47-yard attempt and App state ran out the rest of the clock to win the game.





TEXAS A&M WELCOMES FAMILY TO AGGIE PARK

BY ROB HAVENS '88

Texas A&M is a special place, a school rooted in great traditions that have lasted for over 100 years. But the thing that is probably the most special, is how we feel about each other as Aggies. "We are the Aggies the Aggies are we" are the lyrics of our school song that describes how we feel about each other and the family of former and current students that love each other and love Texas A&M. Other schools might try to replicate what we have but you can't manufacture it. "From the outside looking in you can't understand it and from the inside looking out you can't explain it."

So why would A&M take 20 acres of prime real estate in the heart of our campus when it could be used for buildings or parking garages and build a park? We understand how important the Aggie family is and there is no doubt that this park is sure to be used by students and former students for years to come. At the ribbon cutting ceremony, President M Katherine Banks stated, "Aggie Park not only beautifies our campus but appropriately showcases Texas A&M as a top university. We hope that you enjoy it and many happy memories are made here."

According to Banks, this project was made possible by the donations of over 100 patrons, and it cost more than \$74 million. They broke ground on the project in February of 2020. The idea was to create "an outdoor MSC" that would provide a beautiful outdoor space for students to study and relax, as well as a gathering spot for everyone on game days and throughout the year.

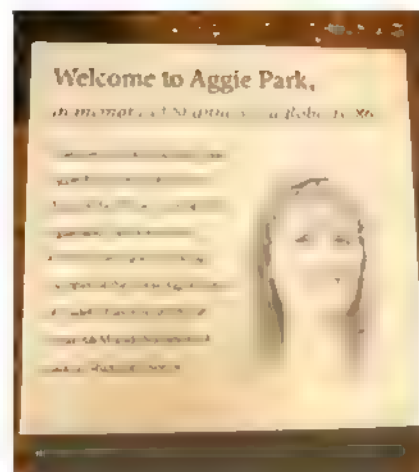
The park provides enhanced tailgating space, waterfalls, a fully stocked pond, an outdoor amphitheater, and more. A new building operated by The Association of Former Students will be programmed for year-round use, providing flexible and functional space for Aggie Ring Day and other events.

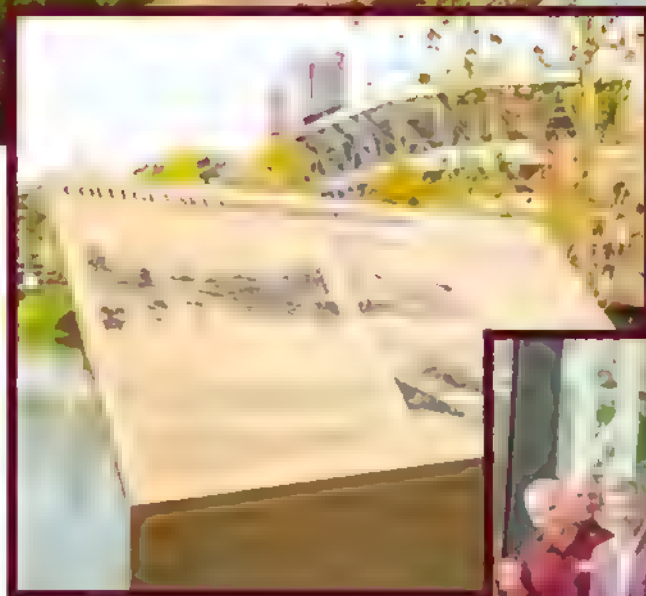
A concert was held in the park the night before our first home game and the ribbon cutting ceremony took place the following morning. Just minutes after the president and chancellor came on stage to officially open Aggie Park, the Fightin' Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets marched into the stadium through the park.

On game day thousands of Aggies tailgated in the park and it quickly became a must-see destination for all Aggies coming to the game. Not even

the rain nor lightning on that Saturday could dampen the spirits of Aggies coming together as a family to enjoy their new park.

The MSC has been described as the living room for Texas A&M. Aggie Park will now become our family's backyard. In the future, there will be wedding proposals, senior photo shoots, family gatherings, and Aggie Ring celebrations as Aggie Park becomes the destination for Aggies everywhere when they come home to Aggieland. ■





HOME OF THE 12TH MAN

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STANDING ROOM ONLY

THE LEGEND OF THE 12TH MAN

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STORY BY EDITED BY DIRECTED BY CHRIS SABO

STARRING 100 YEARS OF TRADITION AT TEXAS A&M

12TH MAN MOVIE IS A MUST SEE FOR ALL AGGIES

BY ROB HAVENS 88

You'll laugh, you'll cry, and you'll whoop when you watch "Standing Room Only - The Legend of the 12th Man." The full-length documentary created by 12th Man Films (a creative division within 12th Man Productions) debuted on August 20, 2022 in Rudder Auditorium at Texas A&M University. This film told the story of how the 12th Man tradition began, as well as how it has impacted Texas A&M University for over one hundred years.

The documentary dates back to 1862 when Abraham Lincoln signed the Morrill Act paving the way for our beloved school to be created into a land-grant college. Viewers of the movie get a detailed history of how the school began, as well as how it has changed over the years. This movie portrays how so many of our school's traditions began, from "Gig'em" and Reveille to Aggie Muster and Bonfire.

The producers of this film take everyone back in time with videos, pictures, and a great assembly of historic storytellers that explain how things were back then, as well as how they have shaped Texas A&M University into what it is now. Many have heard the story of E. King Gill and how he came out of the stands to help his team in a time of need. But this documentary helps you to go back in time to even hear the voice of Gill and Coach Dana X. Bible as they talk about that monumental day.

Not a detail is left out in this documentary as it gives background on Gill, what happened on that historic day, and how it turned into the greatest tradition for college football. Plus, this movie tells us all about the history of Aggie football, the great coaches we have had, and the players that we still remember today.

In addition to sharing the story of how this tradition began, the documentary also tells the story of Coach Jackie Sherrill and the 12th Man Kickoff team. The filmmakers took us back to that fateful night when the bonfire fell and killed 12 Aggie students. Coach RC Slocum described the events, how they unfolded after the collapse, and the game against the University of Texas at the end of that week.

Viewers will likely feel a range of emotions when watching this film. There are moments of laughter, as well as moments of sadness. There are times you will want to whoop and times when you want to hiss. Directed and edited by Chris Sabo of 12th Man Films, this one-hour and 42-minute documentary is the result of countless hours of interviews and research into the history of our beloved school and the traditions that make it so great.

If you love Texas A&M, you will love this movie. Every Aggie will learn something as the film navigates through the history of Texas A&M, the legend of Coach Bear Bryant and the Junction Boys, how the Yell Leaders got their start, and so much more.

Texas A&M Athletics is exploring future opportunities for people to see "Standing Room Only" and will release more information in the coming weeks. This movie is a must see for all Aggies! ■

12TH MAN
PRODUCTIONS

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Q&A

QUINN CORNOG



YOU SCORED THE FIRST GOAL OF THE SEASON PLAYING AT HOME. HOW WAS THAT?

It was so awesome and I think it definitely raised the energy because after that we just kept going and going. There's no better way to start a game than scoring in the first five minutes!

WHEN DID YOU START PLAYING SOCCER?

I started playing soccer at a young age, probably about six year's old. My brother also plays soccer and he's going to the University of Portland to play on their team. So, we're a soccer family (laughs).

GROWING UP, DID YOU PLAY OTHER SPORTS?

I did. Throughout middle school I played basketball, softball, cross country, track, and then when I got to high school I just played soccer. It became a lot so I just had to pick one.

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR RECRUITING PROCESS? I KNOW YOU WENT TO VANDERBILT FIRST, BUT DID YOU EVER CONSIDER COMING TO TEXAS A&M DURING HIGH SCHOOL?

I have an interesting story. So one of the first schools to reach out to me was actually A&M. I didn't know if I wanted to stay in state so I was kind of pondering in my mind. Then I looked at Pepperdine and I loved it. Like my first visit I loved it and I actually committed there. But I wound up decommitting eight or nine months later to relook at my options. I thought, "I'm a junior, I have time. Let's look around." I started to get better and better, realizing I had other options. I looked around and A&M was still there. It is a great school, even though I didn't realize it at the time. Then Vanderbilt reached out to me, and with my mom going there, I thought about the family connection. I visited and I liked it, but I think it was just one of those things that once I got there it wasn't what I thought it was going to be. So, I'm just glad that I ended up here. Because now I know this is where I was meant to be. I just think it's funny that A&M was always one of my options.



SO DID YOU ENTER THE TRANSFER PORTAL? TELL ME ABOUT THAT EXPERIENCE.

Yeah, it's obviously nerve wracking to make a decision like that. You think everyone is watching and judging you for it. In the end I learned to do what makes me happy. It's my life and if I'm not enjoying something, then why waste another semester there when I can go somewhere else where know I would enjoy it more. So I made the move and it was a great decision.

TELL ME ABOUT TALKING TO COACH G ABOUT COMING TO A&M.

(Laughs) Honestly, He didn't believe it the first couple of times because I had told him before that I was thinking about coming here and I didn't. So I told him, "Look I'll officially sign, like it will be complete this time."

IT'S FOR REAL THIS TIME?

(Laughs) Yes it's for real this time! It was good. It was fun!

WHAT DID YOUR FAMILY THINK OF YOU COMING TO A&M? IT IS A BIT CLOSER RIGHT? ARE THEY STILL IN THE DALLAS AREA?

They loved it!! Yes, they are like three hours away. They are coming to every game. They are actually coming this Thursday and Saturday. It's awesome!

TELL ME WHAT IT HAS BEEN LIKE SO FAR.

It's been super easy adjusting here. I knew like four or five of the girls coming in from club. Obviously everyone else here is so sweet. I knew Phil, Coach G, and Lori for a while, so it was a really easy adjustment.

DID YOU START CLASS TODAY?

I did start class today! I had two classes. They went well and smooth. I had Political Science and Communication today.

WHAT ARE YOU STUDYING?

I'm in business. I'm trying to figure out what area of business I want to do

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'D LIKE TO DO AFTER SCHOOL?

I'm kind of leaning towards marketing. I mean I want to play pro, but if that doesn't work out, I'll have a business degree.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT BEING AN AGGIE SO FAR?

I think probably just being able to represent the 12th man. You know the atmosphere here at games, it's just so exhilarating. It's definitely different than what I was getting at Vanderbilt. So, I love it!

THIS SATURDAY WILL BE SOMETHING ELSE WITH THE FISH CAMP GAME, HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THAT?

I have! Thousands of people are going to come, it's going to be crazy! It's so exciting and I can't wait

IS THERE A GAME THAT YOU ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO ON THE SCHEDULE?

I'm excited for TCU. I think that'll be a great game. They are a top 10 ranked opponent and they are in the state of Texas. That's a great game so I'm excited for that. Also, I know a couple of girls on that team from club.

WHO DO YOU LIKE TO HANG OUT WITH ON THE TEAM?

My best friend is probably Georgia Leb. She had the free kick goal in that game, an absolute banger. We are super close. I've known her for a while.

AFTER YOU SCORED; YOU TOOK OFF. WHAT IS YOUR PATENTED CELEBRATION MOVE?

(Laughs) I don't have a certain celebration move. I usually just jump with my hands in the air and run around. You'd think I'd never scored a goal before, I have (laughs). I just get super excited. It's so fun!

WITH YOUR SCHEDULE IT MIGHT BE TOUGH BUT WILL YOU MAKE IT TO AN AGGIE FOOTBALL GAME? HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO ONE?

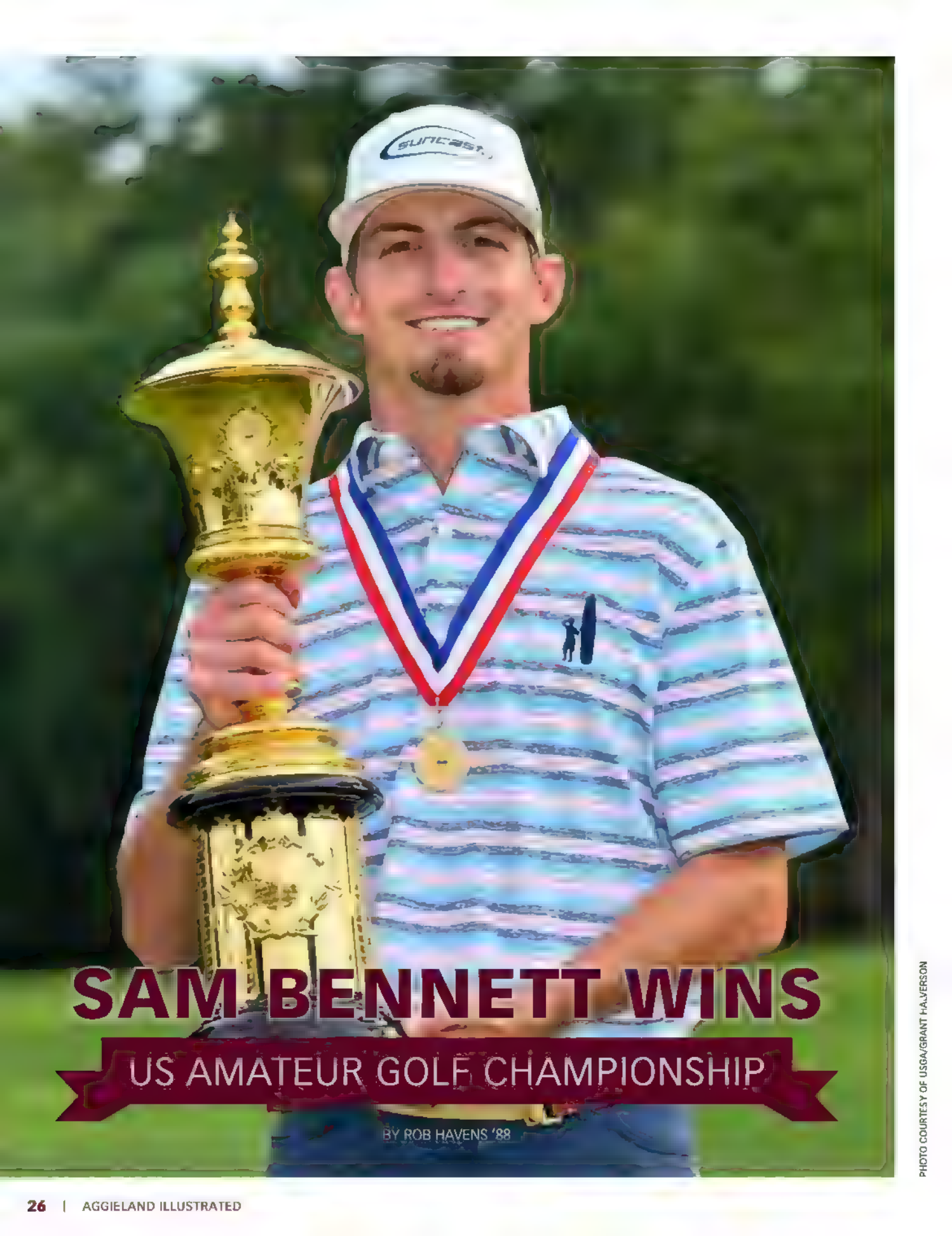
I definitely plan on going to an Aggie football game. I have never been to one. That is definitely on my bucket list to do.

YOU MENTIONED THE 12TH MAN, IS THAT YOUR FAVORITE AGGIE TRADITION?

That and Aggie Muster are both very cool traditions that we do here

IS THERE ANYTHING THAT OUR READERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOU THAT'S NOT IN YOUR BIO?

I lived in Europe for four years. That was a great experience! I moved there when I was seven year's old. That's where my brother really got into the game. I think futbol at that time was a bigger deal for boys than girls. Seeing the development of it now is crazy. Being able to play overseas when I'm older would be a dream come true! But I think living there is where my brother and I really developed a love for the game.



SAM BENNETT WINS

US AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

BY ROB HAVENS '88

PHOTO COURTESY OF USGA/GRANT HALVERSON

Fighting Texas Aggie senior, Sam Bennett, from Madisonville, Texas, ranked third best amateur golfer in the world, played nine rounds of golf in seven days to win the 122nd US Amateur Championship. 312 players teed it up on opening day and once the week was finished, Bennett was the last man standing. While his head coach, Brian Kortan, served as his caddie, the two navigated through the talent-filled tournament together with one goal in mind, to bring the national title home to Aggie and

Bennett had plenty of confidence heading into the tournament and knew if he played his best golf, then he would have an excellent chance at winning the national title. The field began their week by playing 36 holes of stroke play which determined the 64 players who would move forward and compete in the match play portion of the competition. Bennett finished being tied for 30th after the two rounds.

To begin the match play portion, Bennett carded seven birdies and still had to go to the 19th hole to face and conquer No. 13-ranked amateur in the world, Nick Gabrielcik, to advance into the next round. Bennett dominated 27th-ranked, Fred Bondi, 6-and-5 in his next match to advance to the Sweet 16.

In the third round, Bennett took on Spaniard, David Puig, the No. 10 ranked player in the world, and defeated him 4-and-2. That victory set up a quarterfinal match with Stewart Hagestad, who ranks No. 9 in the world, as well as finished as the low amateur in the 2017 Masters tournament. It was a hard-fought match, but Bennett prevailed 3-and-2.

After the win, Bennett made headlines when talking about his success thus far in the tournament. "They're great players, but I'm a better player. No. 3 in the rankings and I feel like I'm the best player. I'm the dog in this race," stated Bennett.

Bennett backed up his comments by taking care of Dylan Menante with a 1-up victory in the semi-final match, which earned him a spot in the 36-hole championship final against Ben Carr. Coach Brian Kortan would later explain how big and tough that semi-final victory was by stating, "That was the hardest day for him because if you don't get through that match, then you've had a really nice tournament, but you've seen a door kind of shut in your face and to get through that match, just the opportunity's pretty incredible. The tears came after that match for him."

In the championship round, Bennett had a nice morning by taking a three stroke lead after the first 18 holes. Following lunch, he increased his lead to five and looked like he would be running away with the match, however, Carr would not back down. Bennett explained after the match, "I'm sitting there on the green, both times looking to go six or seven up, and then he rolls in a putt from off the green, and then he chips in at the next hole, then it kinda hit me, I got tight, I got nervous pretty bad because you feel like in the sport, especially in match play, no lead is ever enough. I just knew, you know, Kort and I knew that I was still three up and I hadn't lost the tournament, even though it felt like I was behind the wheel. But, we were able to keep doing things right and able to finish it off."

Carr was able to get within one as the two golfers moved to the tee box at the final hole of the tournament. Once again, Bennett drove the fairway and hit his second shot about 12 feet away from the pin. Needing a birdie on the final hole, Carr missed the fairway on his drive and needed a chip in from the rough to extend the match, ultimately coming up short. Bennett hit a nice putt on his third shot and tapped in for the win.

In the post-match interview, Bennett was speechless, not really knowing what to do in celebration. His name was engraved on the Havemeyer Trophy next to legends of the game, such as Tiger Woods, Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, and Phil Mickelson. He also earned exemptions in next year's Masters, The Open, and US Open.

Bennett lost his father less than two years ago. In honor of his late father, he has a tattoo on his arm in his dad's handwriting that reads, "Don't wait to do something." After the match he said, "I know he was watching out there and it's pretty cool. He would think that was the coolest thing ever." Bennett shared, "I still send him text messages on my phone to his number."

Bennett admitted that he's just a small-town kid who grew up 45 minutes away from College Station. He gained experience on the 9-hole golf course in his hometown and is looking forward to returning to that same tee box soon with the Havemeyer Trophy in his hands. He recalls his dad believing he was good enough to play college golf, so he got him a membership at Traditions Club. Once Bennett got his license, he would drive into town and work on his game as often as he could.

Bennett believes he still has some work to do before going pro in his golf career and Texas A&M is excited to welcome home the 2022 US Amateur Champion for one more year wearing maroon and white. We expect even bigger and better things from this talented young man who showed the entire country what he is capable of. ■

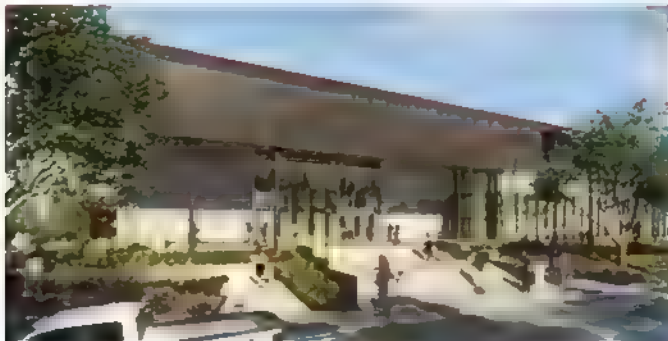




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MEN'S RUGBY

BY ROB HAVENS '88

Did you know that the word "touchdown" actually comes from the sport of rugby? According to Texas A&M's Men's Rugby Club president Manuel Zapata Sanchez, who has played the sport for 17 years, the term comes from the scoring play when a player runs into the end zone and then touches the ball to the ground. Doing so earns the scoring team five points and the opportunity to add either two points in a conversion or three points via a penalty kick.

The Texas A&M Rugby club consists of 80 members that comprise two teams, Maroon and Grey. The former competes in the Red River Conference while the Grey team competes in the Lone Star Cup. In the fall, the teams participate in 7-a-side games, and in the spring, they play games 15-a-side. No experience is required to join the club, but the Rugby Club does recruit high

school players to come play at A&M. In fact, last season's recruiting saw 20 players with at least two years of high school experience join the team.

When asked what makes a great Rugby player, Sanchez said, "Someone who's willing to learn, someone who understands you can be good, but you're always adapting, always willing to learn because no one is perfect. We're not professional athletes. We play because we love to, so if you're willing to adapt, willing to learn, willing to listen, then you're going to be a great player."

Sanchez says that he refers to the team as a brotherhood. He loves the fact that players compete in a sport that has a lot of contact and running. The sport itself is a physical test of strength and grit, but when the whistle blows and the game is over, everyone acts like gentlemen.

"Our sport is a sport of trust at the end of the day," Sanchez explained, "You have to trust the guys you are playing with," Sanchez believes that the camaraderie of the club goes beyond the field, as players not only practice and compete together, but hang out together, too. "The players become your friends and if you ever need anything, you can always count on them."



TRAP & SKEET CLUB

BY ROB HAVENS '88

The Texas A&M University Trap and Skeet Club has won back-to-back national championships and will be competing in March for their third year in a row! The club was founded in 1971 and is one of the most respected clubs in the country.

This club is very popular and, for the first time ever, held tryouts this fall to assemble 60 of the best trap and skeet shooters. The members' practice scores are tracked throughout the year and the top 20-30 members will make up the team that competes in regional and national tournaments. Club members typically compete in American Trap, American Skeet, Doubles Trap, Doubles Skeet, Sporting Clays, and Super Sporting; shooting 100 birds per competitor per discipline.

This year's team contains a combination of 6 former and present USA Sporting Clays Team members who represented our country at world championship events during their respective years of selection. There are also 8 distinguished All-American Team members, including both the reigning men's and women's

collegiate national champions (Joe Fanizzi and Haylyn Hanks, respectively) and the reigning international skeet junior World Champion.

New members are required to have some degree of competitive experience prior to trying out for the team. We asked team president, Cara Maxwell, why she joined and she stated, "Much like many of our members, I had dear friends that I grew up competing with in Texas 4-H who joined the Texas A&M Trap and Skeet Club while I was finishing high school. I was eager to attend Texas A&M, especially Mays Business School, because of the distinguished network and academic opportunities that it would provide. I thought the Trap & Skeet team would be a great bonus to compete in shotgun sports at the next level. I had only heard about the fun, competitive, engaging environment that all of my friends raved about when they joined, but quickly learned that our program is all of those things and more, turning me into a huge advocate for our team to potential members and supporters."

When Maxwell was asked what makes a great shooter, she told us about the hard work and dedication it takes. "We welcome great shooters," Maxwell said, "but our program is built on great teammates who consistently bring resources to their peers to enable their success and work tirelessly to achieve greatness, not only to bring their own medals home, but to contribute positively to a legacy that has long preceded them and should long outlive them."





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